

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Natural Gas Pipeline Installation – LUL# 3235	Proposed Implementation Date: August 2006
Proponent: J.B. Operating Company: P.O. Box 420 Havre, MT 59501 Phone: (406) 265-7100	
Type and Purpose of Action: To connect Gas Well # 2-34-15 via a 6-inch steel flow line to a major field production line. This project will enable well # 2-34-15 to start commercial production of natural gas. A 6-inch flow line indicates a large volume well.	
Location: N1/2N1/2, Sec 4, T34N, R15E., and P.M.M.	County: Hill

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	DNRC, MMB: Subsurface/Surface owner J.B. Operating Company: Operator Karen Gookin & Kathy Lyn Wyne: Surface Lessee
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Deny the request

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
	N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This proposal will take place on northern glaciated plains. The general topography is flat The soil profile is moderately deep and consists of predominately silty textured soils. The vegetation is dominated by crested wheat grass. Reclamation will consist of backfilling all excavations and re-seeding all disturbances related to the project. Seeding requirements will be 7 lbs/acre of crested wheat grass.
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Water quality will not be encountered as a result of this proposal.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I air shed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There will be no impact to the air shed as a result of this proposal.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] A mile long strip of vegetation will be impacted as a result of this proposal. A six -inch pipeline will require an excavation 4 foot wide by 6 foot deep. The vegetative community is an introduced species identified as crested wheat grass.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There will not be any adverse impact to fish, wildlife, or birds resulting from this proposal.
9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are no endangered or threatened species or habitat present on this site.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] During the field inspection there were no historic sites found. The lease records also indicated no cultural sites present.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are no prominent topographic features in the proposed area.
12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, and AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are basically only two major industries within this proposed area. They are agricultural and petroleum industries and both work quite well together.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	[N] None

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] This project will not add to the health and safety of the area.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] The results of this project will contribute to the industrial gas production of the area. This particular area is dependent upon both the petroleum and agricultural industries.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This project will require a contractor to complete the project. The estimated number of jobs is six to eight. Cumulative impacts are not expected as a result of this action.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] This project will create tax revenue from the sale of natural gas production.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] There will be a temporary influx of traffic during the trenching phase of the project. This traffic will deflate after the work has been completed.

19.	LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] None
20.	ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are no wilderness or recreational sites accessed through this tract.
21.	DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] None
22.	SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] None
23.	CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] None
24.	OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for current management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] This project can benefit the State of Montana in terms of gas royalties produced from well production, and license / R/W fees. Estimated returns will be \$15.00 a rod from line installation. This project will cover 320 rods.

EA Checklist Prepared By: /S/ Steve Dobson
Name

Range Specialist
Title

Date: 8-10-06

IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Approve the gas pipeline under LUL #3235.

26. SIGN4IFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Short-term and small-scale impacts to the CRP is expected along the pipeline route. All disturbed areas will be recontoured and reseeded to native grass according to the specifications outlined within this EA. No known archaeological sites are located within the project area due to past farming on the surface. The surface lessee has been contacted and actual damages have been settled. The School Trust will economically benefit from this project by a LUL fee of \$4,800.00. Overall, no negative environmental impacts are expected.

27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:

☐ EIS ☐ More Detailed EA ☒ No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By: Erik Eneboe Conrad Unit Manager - CLO
Name Title

/S/ERIK ENEBOE Aug 11, 2006
Signature Date